

Newburgh News of Note

VOL. VIII ISSUE I

WINTER 2006

Restoration and Renovation Work to Begin

Let the work begin! The restoration and renovation of the Carnegie and second floor of the Newburgh library and their transformation into the town administrative offices is set to begin in February. The Ohio Township Library Board moved the adult and children sections to the lower level of the building for the continued operation of a full service family library in the downtown. This work was completed in late fall. Since then, the Town and the Newburgh Building Corporation have been working with Universal Design to develop and finalize plans for the restoration of the historic Carnegie portion and the adaptive reuse of the space. The final result will be ADA accessibility for the entire building as well as the much needed expanded areas for conducting Town business. The Town maintenance crew has been working diligently for the past few months doing interior demolition work in preparation for the new construction. All interior and exterior work should be completed by late June, and then the move will commence.



Also during this time, the Town has been working with David Wills of Hafer Associates in the design development for the renovation of the current Town Hall. Mr. Wills presented these concepts at a public hearing on December 21, 2005.



He stated, "the intent is to fully and accurately restore the exterior of the building by maintaining the existing brick surfaces and duplicating the wooden windows. The stained glass windows will be repaired and restored on the upper level windows. The interior wood-working and wainscoting will be recreated as will the double entry stairway. The original choir loft will be reconstructed." A museum and caterer's kitchen are expected to be housed on the first floor while the second floor will provide an open area for performances, functions, and events. The Town is applying for a Community Focus Funds Grant for a portion of the funding for this project.

Photos courtesy of Randy Wheeler

Citizen Support Comments Needed

The Indiana Office of Rural Affairs Community Focus Funds grant application is for funds to assist in the rehabilitation of the old Town Hall building located at the corner of State Street and Main Street. Citizen support is very important in this process.

Please take a moment to list any comments or words of support you may have regarding this project. Please return this information to the Town Hall office, 200 State Street, no later than March 15, 2006.

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Prepared by Cynthia E. Burger, Town Manager

ANNUAL AWARDS

Each year the Town of Newburgh honors an individual, business, or organization that has made a significant contribution to the good of our community by awarding the "Good Neighbor" award. The 2005 award was presented to all the "Tornado Volunteers" who assisted in so many different ways in the rescue and relief efforts following the November 6 tornado. At the December 28, 2005 Town Council meeting, the Warrick County Commissioners and Warrick County Council members were called upon to accept this award on behalf of all those who helped during this difficult time. It was certainly a laudable example of community coming together.

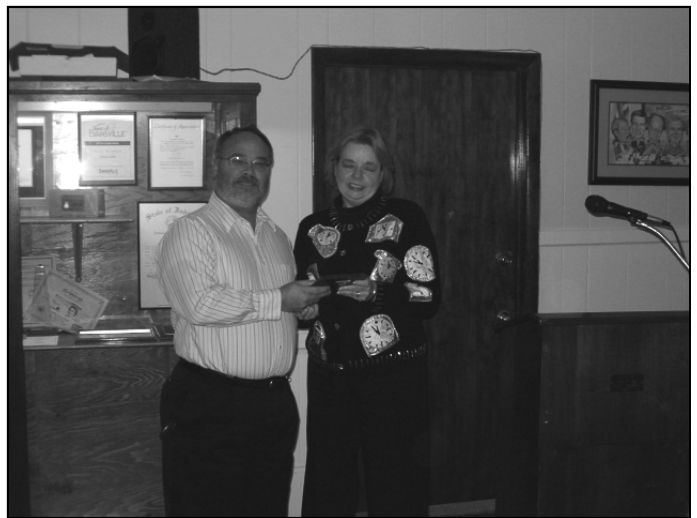
(Pictured left to right: Anne Rust Aurand, Carl Conner, Gary Meyer, Shari Sherman, Don Williams, Bill Kavanaugh, and Bob Seibert)



Also at the December 28 meeting, "Outstanding Citizen" awards were given to five individuals who volunteered their time, energy, and service to our community. Joe Gagnon was honored posthumously for his dedication to the Newburgh Parks Department, his service on the Park Advisory Board, and his significant assistance in the refurbishment of the boat dock. David Cunningham was honored as an outstanding citizen for his dedicated efforts as Neighborhood Watch Coordinator for the Village Lane neighborhood. Larry Schaum of Schaum Jewelers was honored for his donation of the town Christmas tree which delighted us all during the holiday season. For his nine years of service on the Town Storm Water Management Board and his vision in the development of the MS4 program, Byron Sherman was honored. Also honored was Matt Timmel for his service on the Park Advisory Board and his continued help with monitoring the boat dock. A special thank you to each of these individuals is in order.



Shari Sherman presents award to Dave Cunningham.



Byron Sherman receives award from Anne Rust Aurand.

Town Employees Honored for Years of Service

Three employees at the Newburgh Wastewater Treatment Facility were recognized for five years of service to the Town: Mike Burch, Rodney Larkins, and Charlene Hopper. Jane Miles was recognized for fifteen years of service in the Sewer Department office. Sergeant Gretchen Mayse was honored for twenty years of service as a member of the Newburgh Police Department.



Sewer Commissioner Shari Sherman presents certificate to Jane Miles

Chief Brett Sprinkle congratulates Officer Mayse for her years of service with the Newburgh Police Department.



NVFD Recognized

Eighteen members of the Newburgh Volunteer Fire Department were recognized for their years of service to our community. With years of service ranging from five to twenty nine years, the following volunteer firefighters were honored: Greg Lueken, Matt Timmel, Chad Bennett, Paul Campbell, Mike Wittenbraker, Randy Loving, Wendy Kolley, Monte Collins, Mark Grimm, Larry Nellis, Mike Wilson, Kirk Whipple, Charles Marx, Ken Sellers, Courtney Marx, Mike Burch, Allen Hester, and Jim Blagg. Thank you!



Fire Commissioner Anne Rust Aurand thanks Fire Chief Greg Lueken

Veterans Memorial Committee Formed

At the December 14th Council meeting, Mike Brady, Cam Renaud, Carl Riecken, Byron Sherman, and Harry Thompson were named to serve on the newly formed Veterans Memorial Committee. They will be exploring ideas for a fitting memorial for those who have served our country in the armed forces. Shari Sherman is chairing this committee with Bob Seibert serving as a member.

“LET THE BUYER BEWARE”

Caveat Emptor is an age old expression meaning “let the buyer beware.” One would think that with today’s consumer protection and government regulations, such a concept would be a thing of the past. Unfortunately, the need to be wary still exists.

Chief Brett Sprinkle of the Newburgh Police Department and Frank Hijuelos, Newburgh Zoning Administrator have been working together on a complaint lodged by a Newburgh resident against an area contractor for fraud, non- completion of work, and structural deficiencies on a home renovation and addition project.

Chief Sprinkle has said that his department will work together with Frank to investigate and follow through on all complaints for possible criminal intent. The complaint is now in the hands of the Warrick County Prosecuting Attorney at this time.

There are many highly qualified contractors working in the Newburgh area. Some tips on obtaining a quality contractor are as follows:

1. Obtain three bids.

No reputable contractor objects to legitimate competition.

2. Obtain proof of insurance and bondability and make sure the contractor has a verifiable address.

It is easy to print “Bonded and Insured” on a business card or letterhead. Make sure you see the real documents.

3. Don’t pay for the job in advance and don’t pay cash.

Many reputable contractors require a deposit before starting work, but not the full amount.

4. Make sure you have a written contract.

Many contractors use their written proposal as a contract. Make sure the proposal lists all of the work to be done. Be as specific and detailed as possible. Specify types of wood and other material and fully describe all of the elements and requirements of the project.

5. Have the contractor obtain the building permit.

This puts the responsibility on the contractor, not the homeowner, and ensures that the work performed meets all codes and standards and is inspected by the building inspector.

6. Obtain a list of references and completed projects.

Check with the references and owners to see how the contractor performed.

7. If you think you have been the victim of fraud, contact the Newburgh Police Department at 853-1723 or on their web site at www.newburghpd.org.

8. The Southwestern Indiana Builders Association is a professional organization of quality contractors and can supply a list of members if you are searching for a contractor.



Remember, the Newburgh Police Department and the Building and Zoning Department exist for your protection. If you are planning a construction or remodeling project, your Zoning Administrator is always ready to assist you.

Chief Brett E. Sprinkle, Newburgh Police Department
Frank Hijuelos, Zoning Administrator

Wastewater Treatment Facility News



Certification recipients shown left to right: Joe Potts (IDEM Class B and IWEA CS IV), Mark Robling (IWEA CS II), Scott Heck (IWEA CS I), James Pease (IWEA CS II), and Russell Powell (IWEA CS I).



IWEA Laboratory Excellence: Lab team shown left to right: Rodney Larkins, Charlene Hopper, Joe Potts. Not pictured are team members Heath Dill and William Kramer.

**WWTF Employees
Earn
Certifications
and Lab Team
Wins
Excellence Award**

Other WWTF news of note: Russell Powell was promoted to the Collection System Assistant Supervisor and Brandon Robling transitioned from part time to full time status working in Collection System Operation and Maintenance.

Upcoming Events at Newburgh PD

The Newburgh Police Department will be conducting child restraint seat inspections on Saturday, February 11th from noon until 4:00 PM at the police department, 527 State Street. Two certified officers will be performing these checks and also answer any questions about child restraint seats.



The Newburgh Police will also be conducting an Operation Pullover seat belt and child restraint seat blitz from February 5th through February 19th. Officers will be working overtime to target people who are not wearing their seat belts and checking for children who are not properly restrained. This program is funded through federal grant money, which allows the police department to have extra officers on duty during this time period. Please remember to buckle up.

by Deanna Malcolm, Administrative Assistant

Newburgh Officials

TOWN COUNCIL

President William Kavanaugh District 1
853.3050

Ken Hughes District 2 858.5028

Robert Seibert District 3 853.5146

Anne Rust Aurand District 4 853.7538

Shari Sherman Council at Large 853.5447

Becky Gentry Clerk-Treasurer 853.7111

ADMINISTRATION

Town Manager Cynthia E. Burger 853.3578

Zoning Administrator Frank Hijuelos 853.2728

SEWER DEPARTMENT

Business Office 853.7496

Office Manager Donna Driskell

WWTF Superintendent Leon Key

STREET DEPARTMENT

Superintendent John Fischer 853.6648

POLICE

Emergency only 911 Information 853.1723

FIRE

Emergency only 911 Information 853.7651

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT/MAIN STREET

Historic Newburgh, Inc 853.2815

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Direction Changes for Downtown Streets

**Monroe Street now
two-way**

**Water Street from State to Plum
will be ONE WAY going west**

The Town Council approved these changes at the December 14, 2005 meeting. The recommendation came from (EUTS) Evansville Urban Transportation Study in 2003, but the changes were not enacted until recently due to the change in traffic patterns and the increasing use of Water Street by pedestrians and bicyclists. Though a difficult decision for Council, the safety issue remained forefront. Once the ordinance passed, Monroe Street immediately began to accommodate two-way traffic. The Water Street action will take effect once the appropriate signage and directional markings are installed.

Ken Hughes, Street Commissioner